

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 284578

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, KE, US

SUBJECT: FLYBY - PUBLIC AFFAIRS PLAN

REF: A) NAIROBI 12868; B)USCINCEUR 1808112 NOV 76

1. CINCEUR PROPOSAL FORWARDED REFTEL A NOT COORDI-
NATED WITH DOD OR STATE. OUR TENTATIVE REACTION, WITH
WHICH DOD CONCURS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. GOK ANNOUNCEMENT OF FLYBY MUST PRECEDE, OR AT MINIMUM
COINCIDE WITH, USG ANNOUNCEMENT OF OVERALL OPERATION. WE
CONCUR WITH REF B ARGUMENT (PARA 2C) THAT VISIBILITY OF
AIRCRAFT ON BOARD GUAM DURING SUEZ TRANSIT MAKES ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF PURPOSE OF AIRCRAFT EMBARKATION ADVISABLE PRIOR TO
SUEZ TRANSIT, AND BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD RAISE QUESTION
WITH GOK IN THESE TERMS. IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE GOK
ANNOUNCEMENT OF FLYBY SEVERAL DAYS PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1,
WITH US ANNOUNCEMENT OF SHIP VISIT ON DECEMBER 1 TO INCLUDE
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REFERENCE TO AIRCRAFT EMBARKATION FOR PURPOSE OF EXECUTING

FLYBY.

B. STATE AND DEFENSE PREFER THAT SHIP VISIT ANNOUNCEMENT BE PEGGED TO ROUTINE PROGRAM OF PERIODIC VISITS BY SHIPS OF VARIOUS TYPES TO INDIAN OCEAN PORTS. PRESENCE OF AIRCRAFT ON BOARD GUAM COULD BE EXPLAINED AS MOST FEASIBLE MEANS OF MEETING KENYAN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY SIMULTANEOUS WITH ROUTINE VISIT.

C. ANY MENTION OF INITIATION OF FLYBY, IN TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT OR IN Q AND A GUIDANCE, SHOULD BE PHRASED IN TERMS OF KENYAN "INVITATION" RATHER THAN "REQUEST." SUCH DESCRIPTION AVOIDS IMPLICATION THAT FLYBY CONSTITUTES SHOW OF FORCE OR OTHER MEANS OF PROVIDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KENYANS WITH CONNOTATIONS OF CRISIS SITUATION.

D. WE BELIEVE THAT Q AND A GUIDANCE MUST CLEARLY ADDRESS QUESTION OF FLYBY IN ADDITION TO QUESTION OF OVERALL SHIP VISIT. RESPONSES SHOULD ADHERE TO GUIDANCE IN PARA 1(C) ABOVE AND DESCRIBE OPERATION AS U.S. "PARTICIPATION" IN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION.

2. IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT REFERENCE TO THIS OPERATION NOT ENTER PUBLIC DOMAIN PRIOR TO DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT(S) AGREED WITH GOK. THIS POINT IS BEING STRESSED WITHIN STATE AND DEFENSE AS WELL AS WITH OVERSEAS ESTABLISHMENTS INVOLVED. KISSUNGER

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